Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) ~~The network according to claim 1~~ An optical packet-switched ring network, comprising:
a node including

an optical switch coupled to a fiber of the ring network;

a transmit switch coupled to the optical switch;

a wavelength stacking assembly coupled to the transmit switch, wherein the wavelength stacking assembly includes a tunable laser, a circulator coupled to the tunable laser, a demultiplexer coupled to the circulator followed by delay lines and a reflector;

a receive switch coupled to the optical switch; and

a wavelength unstacking assembly coupled to the receive switch.

3. (Currently amended) ~~The network according to claim 1~~ An optical packet-switched ring network, comprising:
a node including

an optical switch coupled to a fiber of the ring network;

a transmit switch coupled to the optical switch;

a wavelength stacking assembly coupled to the transmit switch;

a receive switch coupled to the optical switch; and

a wavelength unstacking assembly coupled to the receive switch, wherein the wavelength unstacking assembly includes a circulator, a demultiplexer coupled to the circulator followed by delay lines and a reflector.

Claims 4-7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 7, further including~~ <u>A method for transmitting and receiving stacked packets on a ring network comprising:</u>

<u>stacking packets of varying wavelengths to form a composite transmit data packet;</u>

<u>buffering the transmit data packet in a transmit switch;</u>

<u>transmitting the transmit data packet onto the ring network via an optical switch;</u>

<u>receiving a receive data packet via the optical switch;</u>

<u>buffering the receive data packet in a receive switch;</u>

<u>unstacking the receive data packet; and</u>

stacking the transmit data packet using a tunable laser, a circulator coupled to the tunable laser, a demultiplexer coupled to the circulator followed by delay lines and a reflector.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 7, further including~~ <u>A method for transmitting and receiving stacked packets on a ring network comprising:</u>

<u>stacking packets of varying wavelengths to form a composite transmit data packet;</u>

<u>buffering the transmit data packet in a transmit switch;</u>

<u>transmitting the transmit data packet onto the ring network via an optical switch;</u>

<u>receiving a receive data packet via the optical switch;</u>

<u>buffering the receive data packet in a receive switch;</u>

<u>unstacking the receive data packet; and</u>

unstacking the receive data packet using a circulator, a demultiplexer coupled to the circulator followed by delay lines and a reflector.

Claims 10-17 (Cancelled)